

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are currently being canceled.

Claims 4, 11 and 14 are currently being amended. The amendment to claim 14 is to correct a grammatical error and to address an indefiniteness issue for that claim (whereby the scope of this claim has not changed).

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 4-7 and 11-14 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 4-7 and 11-14. Due to the amendments made to claims 4 and 11 to place those claims in independent form, claims 4-7 and 11-14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims 11, 13 and 14

In the Office Action, claims 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 14 has been amended to change "the supplementing portion" to "a supplementing portion", and thus presently pending claim 14 is not indefinite.

This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 11 and 13. The Office Action asserts that claims 11, 13 and 14 recite the limitation

"restored by supplementing portion" on page 19 lines 3-5 and 18-20, and page 20, lines 16-17. This assertion is incorrect with respect to claims 11 and 13. Rather, page 19, lines 3-5 recites "a restoring step of restoring predetermined data by a supplementing portion from data other than the code patterns . . .". There is no antecedent basis for this claim limitation since it is the first time that this claim limitation is recited in claim 11, and therefore this claim limitation is recited in proper format on page 19, lines 3-5. Page 19, lines 18-20, which corresponds to a portion of claim 13, recites "a step of incorporating predetermined data restored by the supplementing portion, . . ." Since "supplementing portion" was recited for the first time in base claim 11, it is properly referred to as "the supplementing portion" in dependent claim 13.

Accordingly, claims 11 and 13 are not indefinite. If this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative to discuss this issue in greater detail.

Claim Rejections over Prior Art

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,611,352 to Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,116,510 to Nishimo. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-3 and 8-10, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper

payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 13, 2004

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